

LIGHT *Added to* LIGHT

Strategic Plan

The Mt Etna Lodge is in its 4th year of using a “Strategic Plan” for the lodge. This was fostered internally and not something dictated by the Grand Lodge. In a nutshell; the purpose of the strategic plan is to review the current condition of the lodge, to determine the strengths and weaknesses within the lodge, and to establish goals that the lodge undertakes to improve itself. Areas include; maintenance of building and grounds, membership growth and development, budget, ritual, officer development, lodge enhancements, etc.

Perhaps the most important outgrowth of the strategic plan is lodge self examination. Too often we ignore the significant and focus on the non-important. The strategic plan helps everyone examine the local lodge and give members the opportunity to provide direction going forward. Tough questions are

addressed, but most items are improvements.

Worshipful Master Rick Sereno has stated that he wants members at Mt Etna to feel that the cost of membership is the best value they have during the course of the year. As a part of this overall effort, you will see new initiatives in the way of directed activity and communications. Visitation to shut in Brothers, a fall stated meeting at Heritage Pointe in Warren (The Warren Home), and improved communications to the membership are all planned for 2015. Hopefully each member will see on-going improvements in the Mt Etna Lodge, take pride in their Masonic membership, and be encouraged to participate and support the local Lodge going forward into the future. !

Mason in the News

Brother Steve Williams was sworn in as a state officer in May 2014 as one of the 10 Deputy Grand Lecturers in the state of Indiana. Steve serves in

District 2 which is comprised of 9 counties located in northeastern Indiana. In this capacity Steve assists lodges in their ritual work, conducts Lodges of Instruction in each lodge annually, and hosts Ritual Workshops as needed. Steve is a Past Master at Amity Lodge in Huntington, has served as various officers at Mt Etna, and is well known for his own ritual accomplishments. Steve and his wife Dawn live in Huntington and have a son Nick who is a student at Vincennes University and also a member of Mt Etna Lodge.

Member Recognized

Notification has been received that Brother Daniel E. Grover was a Gold Card Sponsor of the Indiana Masonic Home Foundation endowment fund for year 2014. Thanks you for supporting the Indiana Masonic Home.

Valentine's Dinner Held

A Valentine's Dinner was held at the Lodge on Saturday, February 14. "White outs" and bitterly cold weather during the day affected the turn out, but those who attended had a fun evening, enjoyed the good food

and good company. Thanks to Bob and Cindy Haley for preparing the dinner and to Steve and Dawn Williams for "emceeding" the event.

Brothers' Passing

Brother Hugh Shafer of Warren passed away January 26, 2015. Hugh was raised in King Lodge in Warren and was a 50 + year member of Masonry. Brother Robert R. Updike of Lancaster Township passed away on February 15, 2015. "Bob" was raised in the Mt Etna Lodge and was also a 50 + year member.

Planned Visitation Set

A visitation is planned to Masons at Heritage Pointe – Warren on Thursday February 26th at 6 pm. Anyone who wishes to participate is invited, with the purpose being an informal gathering of any resident or area Masons. Visiting members will meet in the front foyer at 6 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Founder's Day

Founder's Day was held by the Grand Lodge of Indiana on Saturday, January 10th in Indianapolis. Six members from Mt Etna attended (Rick Sereno, Bob MacDonald, Junior Wehr, Steve Williams, Chuck Clampitt, and Nick Williams). This annual event was held at the Scottish Rite in Indianapolis and included a featured speaker from the state of Maine, comments by Grand Master Daniel Barenie, and presentations by state Masonic youth organizations representing DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow Girls. Approximately 400 to 600 Masons attended. Following the general meeting, break-out sessions were held for Masters and Wardens, Secretaries, Area Representatives, and other special interest groups.

Ritualist Program

The Indiana Grand Lodge initiated the Ritualist Program several years ago to encourage Masons in ritual work. Points are awarded for each role a member performs as a part of the three degrees as well as other lectures. Points are awarded based on the size of the role or lecture presented, and may only be "earned"

once for each ritual undertaking performed. Three different achievement levels are recognized with a lapel pin: Ritualist, Senior Ritualist, and Master Ritualist. Ritual work provides an intense study of the history and tradition of Masonry and serves as one of several different methods to grow in the Craft. Mt Etna Lodge is very fortunate to have several accomplished ritualists among its members.

Brother-to-Brother Calling

One of the initiatives for 2015 is "Brother-to-Brother Calling". What we are doing is calling all the brothers at least once during the course of the year. These are social calls to see how you are doing, what is going on in your world, and to provide any assistance that we might be able to lend at the local Lodge level. If you receive a note with your newsletter asking for an updated phone number or if you have an email address, the purpose is to improve communications. Don't be surprised if you get a phone call from a fellow brother.

Euchre Tournament

Winner of the 2014 Euchre Tournament was Bob MacDonald. The tournament was set up by Jay Allen, and anyone wanting to play at a stated meeting is assigned a partner for that evening. Wins and losses as well as scores are recorded for each individual throughout the year to determine the winner. The ongoing tournament is always a fun gathering and adds to the social enjoyment of the stated meeting. Anyone is welcome to participate, whether for the evening or throughout the year.

New Fund Raiser Created

A new fund raiser was held in 2014. The Lodge manned a food trailer at the Salamonie Festival in Warren over the 4th of July weekend. The trailer was provided by a fellow Mason from Bluffton that was already equipped, stocked, and set up for the weekend. Mt Etna members and families manned the trailer on Friday and Saturday serving brats, sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, corn on the cob, soft drinks, and fruit smoothies. The food was good, all who worked laughed and enjoyed themselves (and ate), and financially

we did well selling over \$1700 during the two days. The plan for this year is to do it again, this time with a stronger Masonic presence with members manning a table outside the trailer shaking hands, greeting friends, and handing out information about our fraternity.

A Look Back In the Lodge Minutes

(Mar 6, 1909) "On motion Bro WM William Carmichael was instructed to get six new cuspidors". (For some of the younger members, a cuspidor is a spittoon – a metal container that sat on the floor so that tobacco chewers have some place to spit during meetings.) Accurate spitting was an art form. Unfortunately not all "chewers" developed the skill!

Upcoming Events

- Feb 26 Visitation @ Warren Home 6 pm
Meet In Front Lobby
- Mar 5 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Mar 7 Fellow Craft Degree 9 am
Saturday – Lunch To Follow
- Apr 2 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm